

Herbert Wadsworth House (Sulgrave Club)
1801 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D. C.

HABS No. DC-274

HABS
WASH,
216 -

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C. 20240

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
HERBERT WADSWORTH HOUSE
(SULGRAVE CLUB)

HABS No. DC-274

WASH - 216

Location: 1801 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W., Washington, D. C.
UTM: 18.322920 .4308465

Present Owner: Sulgrave Club

Present Use: Private Club

Significance: This building, with conglomerate 18th-century details, occupies a full block. Its location necessitated an architectural treatment dependent upon three problems: an intersection (18th Street and Massachusetts Avenue), a circle (Dupont Circle), and three street facades (Massachusetts Avenue, 18th Street, and P Street. It occupied all of the Square north of Square 137.

HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

Original Owner: Herbert Wadsworth
Original Use: Residence
Date of Erection: ca. 1900 (Permit application dated January 1900.)
Architect: Unknown (Original building permit is missing.)
Builder: Charles A. Langley (building permit applicant, 1900).
Estimated cost: Unknown.

Subsequent Owners:

Martha Elbert Blow Wadsworth, widow of Herbert (1927-1932)
Sulgrave Club (1932-

City and Telephone Directories List:

1903-1904	Herbert Wadsworth
1907-1917	Herbert Wadsworth
1918	American Red Cross
1919-1920	Herbert Wadsworth
1921-1932	Vacant
1933-1972	Sulgrave Club

Known Plans, Drawings, Elevations, etc.:

Series of interior detail drawings in possession of Sulgrave Club.
Unsigned and undated.

Important Old Views:

Two exterior photographs showing porte-cochere and view from southwest.
The American Architect and Building News, Vol. XC (September 29, 1906).
(See reproduction)

Building Dimensions:

Stories: 3 and 1/2 plus basement [ground or first floor, second or main floor, third, and attic (1/2) floor].

Height: 40'-0" to eaves

Bays: 9 bays on Mass. Ave.
3-bay bow on Dupont Circle
5 composite bays on P Street
3 composite bays on 18th Street
3-bay bow on corner of 18th Street and Mass. Ave.

Widths: 136'-0" to apex of each bow on Mass. Ave.
125'-0" on P Street
76'-0" on 18th Street

Lot Dimensions:

174'-0" on south (Mass. Ave.)
159'-10" on north (P Street)
71'-6" on east (18th Street)

Major Alterations:

1. Installed new baths and decorated interior (1932).
2. Carriage entrance blocked (1932).
3. Passenger elevator installed (1934).
4. Built new marquise and altered vestibule (1952).
5. Passenger elevator installed (1954).

PROJECT INFORMATION

This document, made from records donated to the Historic American Buildings Survey by the Commission of Fine Arts, 708 Jackson Place, N.W., Washington, D.C., represents studies of prime, typical, diversified and sumptuous architecture erected primarily between the years 1890 and 1930, when American society and architecture were greatly influenced by the Ecole des Beaux-Arts. The material, originally organized for adaptation to the Historic American Buildings Survey format, was first published in Massachusetts Avenue Architecture, Vol. 1, issued in 1973 by the Commission of Fine Arts, Charles H. Atherton, Secretary; Donald B. Myer, Assistant Secretary; Jeffrey R. Carson, Architectural Historian; Lynda L. Smith, Historian; and J. L. Sibley Jennings, Jr., Architect. Photographs were made for the Commission by Jack E. Boucher, Linwood, New Jersey; J. Alexander, Wheaton, Maryland; and the Commission of Fine Arts Staff. The material, donated December 1973, was coordinated for the HABS documentation in 1978 by Lucy Pope Wheeler, HABS Writer/Editor. We appreciate the cooperation given the Commission by The Sulgrave Club, by Mrs. William Anderson, President, Mrs. James F. Lynn, former President, and Miss Marie Knapp, Manager.